



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Remains Recovery Operations in Burma

- DPMO initiated discussions with the Burmese government in late 2001 to establish the framework within which the U.S. Government can send teams into Burma to recover the remains of American war dead from WWII.
- In September 2002 a small delegation led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jerry Jennings visited Rangoon to secure the framework from senior officials in the Burmese government and an agreement on a timeline for initial recoveries.
- In October 2002 the DASD (POW/Missing Personnel Affairs) hosted a three-person Burmese delegation for a visit to the Central Identification Laboratory – Hawaii (CILHI) to orient them on U.S. recovery techniques and to discuss recovery operations in Burma. Burmese participants were at the Colonel and lower rank.
- In November 2002 DPMO and CILHI conducted initial recovery operations talks in Burma. These talks laid the foundation for the first investigation and recovery operations.
- From March - April 2003 CILHI conducted initial Recovery Operations. The team recovered suspected human remains, various aircraft parts, and personal equipment. The laboratory is now analyzing the items.
- In October 2003 the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) conducted technical discussions for future investigation and recovery operations.
- In November 2003 JPAC surveyed proposed recovery sites.
- In February and March 2004 JPAC conducting their second Burma recovery operation and recovered suspected human remains. They were also provided additional remains from the Government of Burma.
- In June 2004 a small delegation led by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Jerry Jennings returned to Rangoon to emphasize the need for Burma's support in arranging for relevant witness interviews and maintaining site integrity at potential recovery locations.
- In November 2004 JPAC conducted an investigation of potential sites for a future recovery operation.
- Upcoming events:
 - Policy talks are scheduled for late March 1 – 2, 2005 to orient the new Burmese government representatives to our mission and accounting activities.
- Conditions for the operations:
 - We will not permit any pre-conditions for conducting recovery operations.
 - Contact with the Burmese government and recovery operations will be strictly humanitarian in nature.
 - There will be no military-to-military training or related activities.